



Town of  
*Westford*  
Massachusetts

Town Manager's Newsletter

May 2014



Jodi Ross,  
Town  
Manager

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[www.westfordma.gov/tm](http://www.westfordma.gov/tm)  
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Strategic Planning  
Retreat  
Thursday, June 19  
5:30 PM at Kimball Farm



Watch Meetings Online

**westford**  
*CAT*

[www.westfordcat.org](http://www.westfordcat.org)

**Dear Westford residents,**

Congratulations to all newly elected (and re-elected) officials in our town. A special thank you to Val Wormell for her years of service and welcome to Don Siriani, our newly elected Selectman. Congratulations also to Kelly Ross for his re-election to the board. I look forward to working with all of you.

It is with great pleasure that I announce the promotion of Dan O'Donnell to the position of Finance Director. Dan first joined our town in 1998 as an after school counselor in the Recreation Department. From there Dan worked part time in many different offices and capacities, while he was attending U Mass Amherst and U Mass Lowell, where he received his B.S. in Business Management (with a concentration in accounting) in 2003. After graduation, Dan returned to our town in January 2005 as a Finance Technician. Dan was promoted to Finance and Budget Analyst in July 2010, and in 2011 Dan was promoted to Budget Director. Recently Dan completed a Master's Degree in Public Administration from Northeastern University. During the past 6 years I have found Dan to be a tremendous asset to our town's operations. Dan has a positive attitude, is extremely professional, highly intelligent, self-motivated, accurate, enthusiastic, innovative, and on top of all of that, he is patient and possesses a keen sense of humor.

Along with that great news, I am delighted to announce that Standard and Poors has raised our town's bond rating from AA+ to AAA. This is the second time our bond rating has been increased in the past couple of years. Standard and Poors stated this increase was in part due to "the town's strong budgetary flexibility and performance, supported by good financial management policies." Standard and Poors also stated that our stable economy and diverse property tax base lends itself to stability. This upgrade raises Westford into a category with relatively few other Massachusetts communities who have received this high assessment. I would like to thank our Board of Selectmen, Finance Committee, and Capital Planning Committee for helping us develop financial policies and who offer us the direction and support to enable us to achieve this distinction. I would also like to acknowledge our extraordinary finance team, Dan O'Donnell, Paul Plouffe, Christine Collins and Alice Ferro, who continually make recommendations for improvement, and ensure we follow our financial policies on a day-in day-out basis.

We were recently notified that the Westford Friends of East Boston Camp were awarded a \$100,000 grant from the Cummings Foundation to assist with the reconstruction of the bath house. The Westford based organization was chosen from more than 430 applicants during a very competitive review process.

(continued on next page)

[WWW.WESTFORDMA.GOV](http://WWW.WESTFORDMA.GOV)

Many of you have called to inform us and question the compost dumping that has been occurring at Drew Garden (formerly Eric's) on Boston Road. Our town staff is investigating this activity and will be reporting to the Selectmen and other appropriate boards shortly. Following a request from the Westford Land Preservation Foundation, Inc. the Board of Selectmen is advertising for interested citizens to be appointed to a task force to investigate and make a recommendation to the Selectmen regarding the potential purchase of the property, which is currently for sale.

Our town recently received additional Chapter 90 roadway maintenance funding from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts – the amount has been increased to \$892,233 for FY15. In addition, we received an additional \$133,835 supplemental Chapter 90 Funds for the Winter Rapid Recovery Road program.

A meeting was held in the Westford town hall on May 6<sup>th</sup> with Pan Am officials and representatives from Senator Markey, Senator Warren, and Congresswoman Niki Tsongas's offices, along with State Senator Eileen Donoghue and State Rep Jim Arciero, Selectmen Peraner-Sweet and Hazleton, DEP personnel, and town staff. We are following up the meeting with a written recap of agreements made and issues discussed. Stay tuned to find this and other documents related to Pan Am at this link: [Pan Am Railways Documents](#).

I would like to extend a sincere thank you to our Police Chief Tom McEnaney, Sergeant Kiens, and Police Officers Peladeau and Agraz for providing protection to attendees at the recent Boston Marathon held on April 21, 2014. Terry Stader, our Veteran's Agent, also assisted during the event. It was wonderful to see how many participated this year and to pay tribute to those injured or who lost their lives and loved ones during last year's event.

The Board of Selectmen recently honored June and Charles Kennedy for receiving the National Country School Association of America Service Award for their preservation and educational efforts related to the Parkerville Schoolhouse.

Westford Academy Theater Arts production of *My Name is Asher Lev* was named *Winner* at the METG State Finals on Saturday, March 29 at Back Bay Events Center in Boston - several Westford Academy students were honored for this achievement including: Dayle Welch, Court Fiore, Thomas Mitsock, Misha Stapp, Kara Cialli, Matthew Gagnon, Sam Nudler, Nick Nudler, Jillian Baker, Renee Craig and Tanvi Verma.

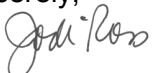
Genevieve Johnson is 94 years old and will graduate from Westford Academy this June. Ms. Johnson was forced to drop out of Westford Academy in 1936, two elective courses less than she needed to graduate. It was during the Great Depression and she left school to work – and ever since she has longed to return. This year she will graduate and receive her diploma as a member of the class of 2014. The Board of Selectmen will be honoring Ms. Johnson on May 27<sup>th</sup>.

Our 2014 Strategic Planning Retreat will be held on Thursday June 19<sup>th</sup> at Kimball Farm from 530 to 830pm. Whether or not you have attended one of our first three annual retreats, please try and attend this one. The discussion is always lively, your input is greatly needed, there is a delicious meal and ice cream bar to enjoy, and it is a great way to learn about the important issues facing our town, and express your opinions and insights in a relaxed, casual atmosphere. More information may be found about this year's retreat, and past events at this link: [Strategic Planning Retreat](#).

There are several openings on local boards and committees, including the Affordable Housing, Bylaw Review, Communications Advisory, Cultural Council, Drew Gardens task force, Historical Commission, Master Plan Implementation, Pedestrian Safety, Public Works Initiative Committee, and others, and I urge you to peruse our website for information about the work of these committees, and if you have interest, complete a Citizen's Activity form at this link: [Citizen Activity Form](#) or stop by and fill out a form in the town manager's office.

I hope to see you at the Apple Blossom Festival and Parade and at our Memorial Day ceremonies.

Sincerely,



Jodi Ross

## Recycling Commission News

**Westford Electronics Collection Event**  
**Saturday, May 17, 2014 at 8:00 AM**  
**Westford Highway Garage, 28 North Street**

The Westford Recycling Commission hosts two Electronics Recycling events each year in Westford, in the Spring and Fall. The events are held from 8:00am to 2:00pm at the Westford Highway Garage at 28 North Street. Westford utilizes the services of Electronics Recyclers International from Holliston, MA

This is a fee-based collection; CASH ONLY. OPEN TO ALL. The Town of Westford receives no proceeds from this event. Please visit [westfordma.gov/recycling](http://westfordma.gov/recycling) or direct questions to Charles Stark at 617-251-7216.



### **EVENT PRICING:**

Air Conditioners / Dehumidifiers: \$20.00
<b>Appliances:</b> Small, anything that plugs into an electrical socket: (irons, hair dryers, toasters, electric toothbrushes, hand mixers, blenders – no glass, etc.): \$1.00 Non-CFC (stoves, washers, dryers, etc.): \$5.00 Refrigerators: \$20.00 Dorm Refrigerators: \$10.00
Treadmills: \$10.00
Cell Phones: No charge
<b>Computers:</b> Computers with mouse & keyboard: No charge Laptops: No charge Computer Monitor (CRT): \$10.00 Computer Monitor (Flat Screen): \$5.00
Game Consoles: \$5.00

Copy Machines (Small-Medium): \$5.00 (Large on Wheels): \$15.00
Home Electronics & Related Appliances (DVD, DVR, Stereos, etc.): \$5.00
Microwave Ovens: Countertop: \$5.00 Built-in: \$10.00
Printers (Small Desktop Inkjet, All-in-One for the home): \$5.00
Power Tools: Hand-held: \$2.00 Table-top: \$5.00
Televisions: 12" screens or smaller: \$5.00 13-25": \$10.00 26-35": \$15.00 Console, any size: \$20.00 Larger than 35": \$25.00
Telephones (Home & Office): \$5.00

## **Recycling Commission News (continued)**

### **Build your own 'Litter League Green Team'**

The Highway Department is providing the Green Team with kits and supplies needed to be successful. These kits contain enough equipment and supplies for eight volunteers, and can be borrowed from the Highway Department.

**Litter League Kits include:**

- Yellow bags for trash, clear bags for recyclables
- Eight safety vests
- Glo-pink flag tape to mark tires and other objects too heavy for volunteers to lift
- Eight metal grabbers for picking up the trash

The Highway Department will collect the full bags and flagged items left at the roadside by the Litter League Teams. So get your neighborhood together, or your child's scout troop or your club members, and pick some dates to borrow the equipment.

To sign up to borrow the kits, or to see what groups have scheduled the kits, go to the Highway Department website at:

[www.westfordma.gov/highway](http://www.westfordma.gov/highway) and look for the [Litter League Link](#).



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## **J.V. Fletcher Library**

The Library's mission statement says that "the Library supports its users in their lifelong pursuit of learning, personal growth and self-fulfillment." The use of the word "lifelong" is literal. If a Westford patron is unable to visit the Library due to physical limitations or illness, they may request Homebound Delivery Service to ensure that they too have Library experiences in their lives.

We asked several of our Homebound patrons what they thought of this service:

"I gave up my license at 90 because I wouldn't be an asset on the road, so they come with books to my house all the time. It's great to live in Westford with all the things we have for seniors." Shirley Crocker

"What I love about the library is that it's always there. You'll go to a taiga in Siberia to get me the book I want. I am ever appreciative." Trisha Ziegner

"Judy Madsen brings me wonderful books on tape every three weeks. I am transported to different worlds every time I read one." Jan Horner



## Council On Aging - Coming Events

### **VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION CELEBRATION**

Friday, June 20th from 1-3pm It's time to celebrate you, our awesome volunteers! Be sure to mark your calendar for this special occasion. Come on out and allow us to show our appreciation for the amazing work and support you give to the Council on Aging and our Westford seniors. Meet other volunteers, enjoy great food, fun, and learn more about the difference you make in our community. We hope to see you at the Cameron on for this special event, given in your honor! RSVP at the Front Desk or by calling 978-692-5523.

### **SOCIAL DANCE**

Join us for a Dance Party here at Cameron on Friday, June 27th from 2 - 5 PM. Live Music by D.J. Jon Mansfield. Tickets are \$5.00 in advance or \$7.00 at the door. Any questions see Annette or Mandi.

### **CAMERON GRILL NIGHTS**

The Cameron Senior Center invites you to sign up for our series of Cookouts and Grill Nights. Reservations are a must. Please call 978-692-5523. Dining will be indoors. Dates: Thursdays, June 19th and July 17th from 4-6:30 PM. Burgers and Hot Dogs served, please bring a salad or dish to share. Suzie's Ice Cream will be available at 6 PM, treats include regular and diabetic choices. The cost is \$2.00 per grill night. (Grill closes at 6:00 PM). Volunteers needed for clean-up.



### **TRANSPORTATION**

Transportation offers various trips to local business establishments such as Market Basket, hairdressers, drug stores, department stores and medical facilities. Trips to Cameron Senior Center and social calls to your friends are also available. Please call 978-399-2322 or email [lmitchell@westfordma.gov](mailto:lmitchell@westfordma.gov) as soon as you know you need transportation. Roundtrip fares are \$3 within Westford; \$6 to neighboring towns; and \$8 to outlying towns. If school is closed due to inclement weather, transportation does not operate.

To view the complete  
Council On Aging Newsletter  
please visit our website at:

[www.westfordma.gov/coa](http://www.westfordma.gov/coa) and click on [Newsletters](#).



Westford Senior Center

## **Council on Aging**

### **SENIOR WORK-OFF ABATEMENT**

M.G.L. 59, Section 5  
FY'15

Applications are available at the Council on Aging Office throughout the month of May for new enrollees. Please call us at 978 692-5523 and request a tax-work application or stop at the Cameron Senior Center Monday – Friday 8 AM – 4 PM.

Participating senior tax payers may volunteer their services to the Town of Westford municipality in exchange for a reduction in their property tax bills. Earnings are determined annually for hours worked during the period of July 1 – June 30, based on mandatory hours of service. This earned reduction is treated as an abatement of property taxes and is not a wage, salary or compensation income for various state purposes, including state income tax.

Under the regulations of the IRS, any individual participating in the Senior Work Program which provides a reduction in property tax in return for services must have Federal and Medicare taxes withheld.

As the Town of Westford is a municipal employer, we do not deduct Social Security but are required to withhold OBRA, a retirement withholding of 7.5% of all earnings. The up side to this unlike Social Security, you may request a refund of all of the monies contributed to your account once you cease to be employed by the town.

Upon completion of hours of service, the department he/she worked for shall notify the Council on Aging (COA) via memo, the name, date and total hours completed by resident tax payer. The COA will then submit a list of names and amounts to be charged to the Tax Work Program appropriation and a check will be remitted to the Tax Collector to be applied to the resident's current tax bill.

FY'15 is 125 hours of volunteer hours for a \$1,000. property tax abatement. If minimum wage changes the hours will be decreased. Time sheets must be signed and returned to Cameron prior to March 15, 2015.

Applications and assistance for the Senior Work Program can be obtained at the Westford Council on Aging (Cameron Center). Eligibility requirements are as follows:

- **Must be 60+ years old and committed to the Program**
- **Must own and occupy the property for which Westford taxes are paid**
- **Must submit a copy of your current year's tax bill along with the application**
- **Only one application per household is allowed**
- **Must have appropriate skills for the position**
- **Applicant and Department Head must agree the position is an appropriate match**

## **Cameron Senior Center**

### **Outreach Coordinator Helps Resident Achieve Lifelong Goal**

In March, 94-year-old Genevieve Johnson contacted the Town of Westford after someone skidded into her stone wall. She was hoping the Cameron's Handyman Program might be able to repair the damage. Outreach Coordinator, Annette Cerullo, met with Genevieve at her home to determine how the town might be able to help.

An articulate, engaging woman, Genevieve began reminiscing about the wall, her home, and her life in Westford. Annette asked her if she wished her life had been different in any way, and Genevieve immediately responded, "I would have liked to have finished high school."

During the Great Depression in 1936, Genevieve had no choice but to drop out of school and go to work. She had only two elective courses left to earn her diploma.



*Genevieve Johnson attending class at  
Westford Academy.*

*Photo courtesy of The Lowell Sun*

"I passed all the rest of them," she said. "But I didn't take those two. I didn't have the time, I had to work."

Touched by this response, Annette contacted Betsy Murphy, a dean at Westford Academy (WA), and asked if there were any way they could make Genevieve's dream come true. Everyone rallied around Genevieve, and Betsy and three WA students encouraged her to return to school with their assistance.

Every Tuesday and Thursday, Genevieve has been attending classes at WA and will graduate with the Class of 2014. The state requires every student to pass the MCAS before earning a diploma, but the Department of Education agreed to waive the requirement for Genevieve after she received an outpouring of support from the community and garnered statewide media attention. And on June 6, she finally will experience the pomp and circumstance she missed 76 years ago as she walks the aisle to receive her high school diploma.

## **Veterans Services Department**

### **Memorial Day 2014**

Westford celebrates Memorial Day this year on Sunday, May 25th throughout many locations in our town. The day starts out by honoring those veterans who are now deceased in various memorials in the villages. Brief ceremonies will be held at Freedom Park, the Forge Village memorials, the Graniteville memorial and at the Bryne Ave. dam. Volunteer readers will read off the names of over 1000 deceased veterans who served with honor starting at 10:45 on the Common. A parade will commence from the Roudy and then around the common at noon with stops at the town center memorials to render honors by veterans and the service organizations that support them followed by representatives from our Police and Fire Departments, WA band, local government dignitaries and the ever popular Westford Firefighters Pipes and Drums. At the common with will be a memorial service in recognition of what Memorial Day is all about.

Please contact us if you are interested in assisting with our Memorial Day planning by calling 978-392-1170. More information at [www.westfordma.gov/veterans](http://www.westfordma.gov/veterans)





## **Health Department News**

### **Parent Support Group**

Please join us at our monthly Parent Support Groups. Sessions are facilitated by Dianne Walsh, LICSW (Cognitive-Behavioral Therapist) and Sue Hanly, RN (school nurse/parent of a child with mental health issues).

The group is designed to offer both education and to form a supportive community for parents challenged with raising children struggling with mental health issues. Your neighbors, friends and others in town all have children with differences—come together and gain information and some skills to help your child.

The group is open to all - you do not have to be a Westford Resident.

**Dates: May 20 and June 10**  
**Location: Millennium School (behind Abbot) in the Large All Purpose Room**  
**Time: 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm**  
**Format: The first half will be educational and the last half will be to talk and discuss issues.**  
**For questions, please call 978 692-5509**  
**You may come to the entire group or come for just the educational or support section**

**May 20 - Dual Diagnosis – mental health and substance abuse – How are mental health issues (especially depression) and substance use and abuse in teens related? Can you treat one without treating the other?**

**June 10 - Planning for a Successful summer .**

**SPONSORED BY THE WESTFORD HEALTH DEPARTMENT**



### **Westford Health Department and Westford Against Substance Abuse (WASA) Programs**

A town hall style meeting will be held on **May 19**, at the Nabnasset Country Club, from **7pm-9pm**. This substance abuse educational program will consist of a panel discussion featuring experts in the substance abuse and legal fields. Topics covered will include: host liability, drug and alcohol overdoses and current trends and information on substance abuse in Westford. The program is free and open to the public. Pre-registration is encouraged. Call 978 692-5509 to register.

## **Health Department News (continued)**

### **SUBSTANCE ABUSE PRESENTATION**

#### **BEHIND CLOSED DOORS “*HIDDEN IN PLAIN SIGHT*” HOUSEHOLD ITEMS THAT TRANSCEND INTO EVERY DAY DRUG USE BY TEENS.**



The Health Department and Westford Against Substance Abuse (WASA) are co-sponsoring a special substance abuse presentation for parents and community members. The **Behind Closed Doors** presentation encourages adult attendees to explore and interact with a display designed to resemble a teenager's bedroom. Throughout the exhibit, items can be found that may indicate a teen is involved in some high-risk behaviors such as substance abuse, underage drinking, eating disorders, and sexual activity.

There will be a 60-minute presentation by Traci Wojciechoski of the Caron Treatment Centers reviewing the latest drug and alcohol trends with an overview of slang terms, highlighting the 'synthetic highs' that are readily available to youth. Participants will be enlightened, educated and possibly astonished.

**Date:** May 27, 2014

**Location:** Stony Brook Middle School  
7 Farmer's Way, Westford, MA

**Time:** The display will open at: 6:30 PM with the presentation to follow

**Pre-registration is encouraged by calling 978-692-5509**

**Health Department News (continued)****Successful Healthy Lakes & Ponds Seminar**

Westford's Healthy Lakes & Ponds Collaborative and Health Department recently organized an informational evening at the Nabnasset Country Club, to discuss the ways to keep our lakes & ponds healthy through education, prevention, and action.



A presentation was given by Tom Flannery, an aquatic Ecologist from the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR). He discussed the vital importance of monitoring for the presence of exotic invasive aquatic plants and other invasive organisms.

Also speaking was Michael Celona, Chief of the Water Toxics unit of the Bureau of Environmental Health's Environmental Toxicology Program for the MA Department of Public Health (DPH) who focused on Harmful Algae Blooms (HAG's), cyanobacteria, and their health effects.

Additional information on ways you can be part of the solution to deteriorating water quality conditions can be found on these helpful websites:

**Westford's Healthy Lakes & Ponds Collaborative:**

[www.westfordma.gov/hlpc](http://www.westfordma.gov/hlpc)

**Westford's Health Department Page:**

[www.westfordma.gov/health](http://www.westfordma.gov/health)

**DCR's Lakes & Ponds Site:**

[www.mass.gov/lakesandponds](http://www.mass.gov/lakesandponds)

**DPH's Algae & Cyanobacteria Page:**

[www.mass.gov/eohhs/gov/departments/dph/programs/environmental-health/exposure-topics/beaches-algae/algae-information.html](http://www.mass.gov/eohhs/gov/departments/dph/programs/environmental-health/exposure-topics/beaches-algae/algae-information.html)





## Health Department News (continued)

### MAY IS STROKE PREVENTION MONTH

Did you know that stroke is a “brain attack!” The National Stroke Association’s stroke prevention guidelines state:

- \* Know your blood pressure
- \* See your primary care physician to see if you have Atrial Fibrillation (AF)
- \* Stop smoking
- \* If you drink alcohol, do it in moderation
- \* Monitor your cholesterol number
- \* Make sure your diabetes is in control
- \* Include exercise in your daily routine
- \* Make sure your following a low fat diet and low salt diet
- \* Make sure your being followed by your primary care physician regarding any circulation problems.



### RECOGNIZING SYMPTOMS OF STROKE- ACT FAST-CALL 911

**F- FACE.** Ask the person to smile. Does one side of the face droop?

**A- ARMS.** Ask the person to raise both arms. Does one arm drift downward?

**S- SPEECH.** Ask the person to repeat a simple phrase. Is their speech slurred or strange?

**T- TIME.** If you see any single one of these signs call 911 immediately!



Has their face fallen on one side?  
Can they smile?



Can they raise both arms and keep them there?



Is their speech slurred?



Time to call **911**  
if you see any single one of these signs.



## Health Department News (continued)

### MAY IS ALSO SUN SAFETY MONTH

Go outside and be active it's important for good health!!! But too much sun can be harmful so here are some tips on keeping our skin safe from UV exposure:

- **Slip** on a shirt.
- **Slop** on sunscreen.
- **Slap** on a hat.
- **Wrap** on sunglasses to protect the eyes and skin around them.

**Slip, Slop, Slap, and Wrap**



Seek shade, protect your skin with clothing, use sunscreen even if it's cool and cloudy outside, and use proper sun protection factor (SPF). Use SPF 30 or higher with broad spectrum protection. The higher the number the better UVB protection and apply often. The sun rays are most intense between the hours of 10:00 am- 4:00 pm. Wear a hat and sunglasses that block UV rays. Protect children from the sun and avoid tanning beds and sunlamps. Tanning beds have been linked to increased risk of melanoma. Be sun smart and enjoy the summer by protecting yourself.

### EMERSON DONATES \$10,000 TO SUPPORT HEALTH PROGRAMS!



Thanks to the generous donation of Emerson Hospital, two of our very popular programs will continue. Emerson, as part of their commitment to assisting the communities they service, has donated \$5,000 toward the shingles program. This program targets our residents age 60 and older. Over 150 residents have been inoculated over the past 4 years, through our clinics, against this very painful and potentially dangerous disease.

Emerson also donated \$5,000 to enable us to continue our elderly dental program which provides dental care for those senior residents who are low income and have no dental insurance. Emerson understands the relationship between maintaining good oral health and the effect it has on personal health, and supported this program to keep our residents healthy.

The Health department applauds and thanks Emerson for supporting these two wonderful and popular preventative services!

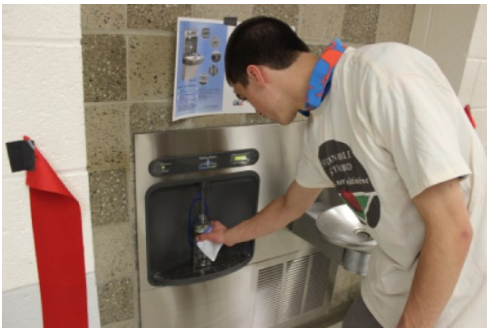
To seek information or sign up for the next shingles clinic call 978 692-5509. To request dental services please pick up an application at the Cameron Senior Center.



## Health Department News (continued)

### Health Department Congratulates Tap WA-ter Initiative!

On Wednesday May 14, the Health Department Director and Board of Health Chair joined about 30+ WA students, faculty and members of the Westford community, for the unveiling of the 1st water bottle filling station in Westford. The event took place at Westford Academy. The **Tap WA-ter Initiative** was a part of student Emily Wood's Senior Internship project with Sustainable Westford. This initiative aims to generate awareness through education about the many environmental, health, economic and social justice issues that should be considered about the water bottle industry.



The initiative provided a new water bottle filling station at WA, and a mechanism to do online fundraising to bring additional stations to Westford. These systems make available, a clean public drinking water supply to everyone and minimizes the cumulative trash we see with plastic bottles from purchased bottled water.

Each day in the US more than 60 million plastic water bottles are thrown away. Most end up in landfills or incinerators, and millions litter America's parks, streets and waterways. We congratulate the initiative and Emily for her efforts to make Westford a healthier, more green community! We look forward to additional systems being installed at public buildings and other locations throughout town.

Visit the following website to learn more or to donate to the Tap WA-ter Initiative: [www.sustainablewestford.org/2014/03/04/tap-wa-ter-initiative/](http://www.sustainablewestford.org/2014/03/04/tap-wa-ter-initiative/)





## Friends of East Boston Camps



Summer  
**Solstice**  
Celebration

Westford's East Boston Camps

Saturday, June 21, 2014  
5:30 pm

- ★ An elegant, romantic evening under the stars
- ★ Gourmet Dining by Two Chefs are Better Than One Catering
- ★ Live music & dancing with The Lookouts & critically acclaimed blues singer Sunny Crownover

Sponsored by Westford Friends of East Boston Camps  
WestfordFriendsEBC.org   solstice@westfordfriendsebc.org  
Call Peter Mahler at 617 759-7323

## Water Department News

### 2014 Rain Barrel Sale

The Westford Water Department is pleased to once again partnering with The Great American Rain Barrel Company to provide a town rain barrel program. Rain barrels can be purchased on line. Visit the Great American Rain Barrel Company website at [www.greatamericanrainbarrel.com](http://www.greatamericanrainbarrel.com) and click on "Shop Community Programs" and click on "Westford" (this link is also available through the Water Department website at [www.westfordma.gov/water](http://www.westfordma.gov/water)). The deadline for purchasing rain barrels is June 18th at 5:00 pm, and pick-up will be on Wednesday June 26 from 4:00-6:00 pm at the Water Department.

Rain barrels are a great way to conserve water and have a ready supply of temperate water for gardens. The attractive barrels offered in the sale are 100% recycled, come in 3 environmentally compatible colors, 40% of retail price, are heavy-duty, and will last indefinitely.

Homeowners can easily connect the barrels to their downspouts and significantly offset their watering needs. In this region there is typically 16" of rain from May 1<sup>st</sup> – September 30<sup>th</sup>. For every inch of rainfall a 1000 square foot surface can collect 620 gallons of water, that means that over the course of the extended summer months an



average roof of 2400 square feet could see more than 20,000 gallons of fresh rainwater passing over its surface from May through September. That is a pretty significant source of water that homeowners could be tapping into for free. Just keeping a small 10' x 10' garden irrigated during the summer months can mean using up to 1700 gallons of water.

#### Five great reasons to harvest and use rain water:

- 1. Saves homeowners money** Have you noticed the drip, drip, drip of your rising water bill? The cost of water is increasing nationally, no matter where you live. Yet rain water is free. If we are using 70% of our expensive drinking water for outdoor usage doesn't it just make sense to tap into the huge source of water splashing off your roof? Rain barrels can be a relatively low cost solution to offsetting the rising cost of your water bill and supply your gardens, pools, lawns with water that is more suitable!
- 2. Reduces storm water run-off** Capturing rain water in a barrel before it hits the ground decreases storm water run-off, which otherwise carries pollutants from paved surfaces into groundwater and rivers. These pollutants suffocate our water supplies and result in costly treatment facilities. This not only affects the quality of our recreational water, has a huge impact on the eco system and shows up in our bills.
- 3. Plants prefer rain water** Non chlorinated organic rain water is better for your plants than what comes out of the tap and it shows in the garden. Try feeding a small patch of moss tap water for a few days to see what happens.
- 4. It is sustainable** harvesting and using your own rain water is a first and easy step towards sustainability, lowers your carbon foot print and teaches conservation!
- 5. It makes you happy!** Your bills are less, your plants are smiling and your family is doing its part.



## Water Department News (continued)

### Water Main Flushing Program

As part of our ongoing maintenance program, Westford Water Department is currently completing a comprehensive flushing of the water mains, in the northern, Graniteville, and Nabnasset sections of Town. We are anticipating **completion on June 13, 2014. Flushing will be completed between the hours of 8:00 AM and 3:00 PM.** This schedule is **subject to change** as weather conditions and length of flushing times may vary. Please check the website for updates

([www.westfordma.gov/water](http://www.westfordma.gov/water)). Periodic flushing is performed to maintain water quality throughout the distribution system. This program involves opening fire hydrants and flushing valves to create increased water flows which dislodge and clean out naturally occurring sedimentation in the pipelines.

Minor flooding of streets, periods of low pressure and/or periods you may be without water could occur. Discolored water may result from the flushing so we recommend that you fill bottles with water for use during this time. If you experience colored water after the scheduled completion time, please run the cold water for 5 to 10 minutes to clear your service line. If your water does not clear or if you have concerns regarding this flushing please call the Water Department at 978-692-5529.



*Tuberculated water main. Corrosion causes deposits to build up within the pipe over time reducing flow and water pressure.*



*Flushing at Farmers Way using our truck-mounted flushing box.*

**Please avoid washing clothes during the dates and times above.** Westford Water Department reassures customers the water is safe to drink and any discoloration should clear up after the water is run a few minutes.

### Consumer Confidence Report

The Water Department provides our customers with a direct link to an electronic copy of the CCR on the Water Department website. <http://www.westfordma.gov/ccr>

The CCR contains important information about the source and quality of your drinking water, and is well worth the time to review. Since electronic delivery will become our primary method for providing the annual CCR it's important to note that:

- **The Westford Water Department no longer mails out paper copies of the CCR unless requested.**
- **If you have previously requested a paper copy then one will automatically be sent to you each year (there is no need to make additional requests).**
- **Please call at 978-399-2457 (or send email to [mwarren@westfordma.gov](mailto:mwarren@westfordma.gov)) if you would like a paper copy delivered to your home or business.**

In addition, paper copies of the CCR will still be available at the Water Department, Town Hall and other municipal and community buildings.